

**PALMER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**March 4, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

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The Palmer Township Board of Supervisors held a general business meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building meeting room. The following were in attendance: Chair Michael Brett, Supervisor Jeffery Young and Charles E. Bellis III. Supervisors K. Michael Mitchell and Joseph Armato were absent. Also in attendance were the Planning Director, MS4/Stormwater Administrator, Police Chief, Director of Public Services, Finance Director, Director of Public Works/Parks/Utilities, Assistant Director of Public Works/Parks/Utilities, Fire Commissioner, and the Assistant Township Manager.

**1. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes - February 26, 2024

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of February 26, 2024.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Supervisor Michael Brett, Seconded by Supervisor Jeffrey Young. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

B. Disbursement of Funds - March 4, 2024

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the Disbursement of Funds for March 4, 2024.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Supervisor Jeffrey Young, Seconded by Supervisor Michael Brett. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Staff Reports

INFORMATION

- Solicitor
- Township Manager
- MS4/Stormwater Administrator

- Planning Director
- Township Engineer
- Public Services Director
- Public Works, Parks and Utilities Director
- Finance Director
- Police Chief
- Fire Commissioner

Assistant Township Manager, Brenda DeGerolamo, had one personnel matter for executive session.

MS4/Environmental Administrator, Paige Strasko, gave an update on the history of the township stormwater program and fee. She said invoices were mailed out the end of last week and residents are now receiving them and having questions. She explained mandates from the Federal and State governments related to MS4 programs and how it was agreed the most equitable way to be fair with fees was to consider the impervious coverage areas on all township properties. The Board of Supervisors in 2023 created the Stormwater Authority and they are tasked with managing the township's MS4 stormwater program. If the township fails to be in compliance with the Federal and State mandates we will be issued fines. The township receives a new permit every five years. With every new permit, new requirements are added for compliance. Currently, the Authority and township staff have a list of 80 different projects of items that we know need improvements. Five projects have been contracted since the Authority was formed. Work required on the culvert repair on South 25<sup>th</sup> Street, design and final repairs for Wedgewood Avenue from damages of the flash flood this past July, and plans for the flooding on Meadow Avenue. We have the Kingwood Street project that will be starting this Spring, and the Bayard Street drainage study. Strasko said, we will also be working on a capital improvement plan to address 80 projects we know need to be reviewed. The Stormwater Authorities next meeting is Wednesday, March 20.

Kristin Haydt, 2709 Stephens Street, said as a property owner if we were to make a decision to move from impervious to more pervious would the township be willing to waive permit fees on remediation efforts as an incentive to residents. Young said, that's a very good question. Haydt said, long term it could affect our resale for our home. Young said, your fee would be renegotiated to reflect any changes you made to move to pervious. Young said, the engineers the Authority hired have been doing this all around the state and they may be able to tell you if others have done that. Haydt said, a driveway may need to be dug up and redone. But we know there are pavers that may cost more, but it may be a valid incentive.

Bellis said, that is a great idea. I have a business that is completely impervious. It's a good idea. Haydt asked, will information be provided on other efforts we can take, like rain gardens. Strasko said, there is a Credit and Appeals Manual on the township website with that information. Haydt asked, about budgeted action items and said she would like to see the actionable ratios. Paige said, I can't speak to it now, but the Authority approved a five year budget that lays out the framework of projects they intend to get done. One of our requirements is to reduce pollutants and we must comply so we don't get fined.

Young said, there isn't going to be a lot of administrative costs. Brett said, the Authority shares township staff and they have the HRG engineering consultants. There is overlapping to streamline things. Director of Finance, Jim Farley, said one consideration when we formed the Authority was how we could minimize the administrative costs. The township already has a software billing system that manages our trash and sewer fees and we piggybacked these fees into that system. Some asked why we didn't outsource the billing like Bethlehem Township. We would have had to reinvent a process and we decided using the current staff and systems already in place would be the best financial option. The total cost to expand our software was \$2,800. There are legal, engineering, and some staff administration costs.

Bob Blanchfield, Chair of the Stormwater Authority explained they are a five member board. When we were formed last year there were two active elected supervisors, Ann Marie Panella and Mike Mitchell, Bob Lammi, myself and Craig Swinsburg who is the Executive Director of Easton Suburban Water Authority. When the township first thought of doing this, they decided to create an authority similar to the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority. The laws allow Authorities to be set up to manage this process. We have been working since last summer to put this together. Our engineering firm, HRG, put together a presentation to address the Meadow Avenue problems that date back to the 1970's. Typically, everyone forgets about stormwater until there is a problem. Initially we thought the MS4 program would be a great thing that will allow us to get ahead of things, and then the flash floods came through in July. Our thoughts changed after that. The damages from the July storm cost us \$3 to \$4 million. We took that into consideration and our plans grew substantially. We worked with Tom Adams, the Public Services Director and Scott Kistler, Director of Public Works. They know where all of our current issues are. You are all welcome to come to our Authority meeting on March 20th.

Young said, when Bob talked about the July flooding, we also had the Van Buren Road Bridge that failed that was just under \$500,000 to repair. We had the Hollo Road sinkhole prior to that. Young asked if we can reimburse ourselves for those? Public Works/Parks/Utilities Director, Scott Kistler said, yes. Young said, our general fund runs about \$14 million a year and when you have to take a million out of it, it hurts. When we started this process, we knew Bethlehem Township started low in the fee structure and they intended to increase it every year for five years. I said, why not start at our five year rate right off the bat so we aren't constantly raising it year after year. Now I think maybe I made a mistake. Maybe we should have stepped it up year after year, but that is where we are at now. If you know where Old Orchard is, where Wedgewood Avenue collapsed, there are huge rocks and a pipe that goes down to Chain Dam Road. In 1988 to 1999 we spent \$300,000 to \$400,000 in improvements and then this July's storm ripped it right out. Kistler said, it created a 50 foot round and 25 foot deep hole. Young said, there was another at Southwood and Chain Dam. The storms destroyed both of those system. Young said, I partially own four properties in the township and it is hitting me and my partners pretty good too. On Glen Avenue where my house is, I'm up the hill. We don't have any stormwater issues where I live, but we have to share in the cost it with everyone else. It's like sharing the cost for our parks, the bike trails and police services. If you want to blame someone, blame me. I don't know where the rate will go from here. It's up to the Authority to manage. At my house my fee is \$240 a year and my other properties around \$660. I had a friend call

me that is at \$98.04 a quarter. I pulled up the property on Google Earth and her whole back yard is covered in impervious coverage around a pool. Once she saw it, she understood. I don't expect everyone to like it. We are billing everyone; schools, businesses, churches, and warehouses. Strasko said some of the larger warehouses are upwards of \$14,000 for one quarter. Young said, I'm in my last two years as a supervisor and I hope down the road as the township attacks these projects, if we don't have as many projects to fix, the fee may possibly come down. Then again if the federal and state demands continue to increase, it may go up.

Bellis said, if you are out and about you will see HRG out marking pipes. The Meadow Avenue project is a \$7 million project. When I attended the one public hearing where HRG made their presentation there were people crying because of the anxiety they live with during every storm. That resident said because of this, she sees a light at the end of the tunnel. We can't blame prior Boards because things were different back then. There weren't state requirements like today. We can't fix everything, but we will be able to address a lot of our issues. We will be able to control the water of a 10 year storm better. Strasko said, the most updated HRG presentation is available on the township website. Bellis said, Paige Strasko, our MS4/ Environmental Administrator is doing a great job and you can always shout out to her with questions or concerns.

Brett said, I don't agree with Jeff's comment that you can blame him, because it was the entire Board's decision on the fee structure, it wasn't just Jeff. One pro is, and I know it is hard to see now, it will give us the base to get started on repairs now instead of having to wait many years to attack all the problem areas. We will see a bigger impact sooner.

Tina Walton, 209 Brentwood Avenue, said a 5:00 p.m. meeting time isn't conducive of the working residents. Could the meeting time get moved later? Strasko said, the Authority made a decision to start the meetings at 5 p.m. If there is a large number of residents that can't make it at that time, we may be able to schedule other meetings or change the time. Walton asked if they can request the land surveyor to see our impervious coverage? Public Services Director, Phil Godbout, said we can provide a visual of your impervious areas. Walton asked for the process of hiring HRG. Strasko said, the Township hired the most qualified engineering firm in stormwater management. Walton asked if there are any grants available? Farley said, one reason to have a Municipal Authority is there is more readily accessible money available for grants. Farley said, there is a PennVEST loan program available for these projects and the current interest rate is 1.75%. The Authorities goal is to get as much done in the next five years. Godbout said, that is 100% correct. That state program will allow us, once we receive funds, to be able to start construction today. In the 1970's they didn't go far enough with requirements and now we have the opportunity to fix the issues from years ago.

Colin Burke, 1415 Stones Crossing, said I grew up in the 70's, 80's and 90s. Why is this happening now and when was it decided to start the program? Are other states following? Strasko said, the MS4 program started in the early 90's due to the creation of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Federal Government pushed it down to the States to implement. Pennsylvania is not the only state. As people started to pay more attention to the Act they realized how many pollutants were getting into our

streams. Ever since 2006, developments now need detention basins. Burke asked, when new homes are being built are the builders redesigning homes with less coverage and things like rain gardens? Strasko said, that is up to the builder to make those decision. They all have to meet stormwater requirements with the state.

Planning Director, Kent Baird, said he had not report tonight but will have an agenda item later on the agenda.

Brett said, we have some Easton High School students in attendance tonight. Supervisor Young explained the responsibilities of the elected Board members, the governmental process, and introduced the staff and their responsibilities.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Discussion and Approval of Recreational Leases INFORMATION**

The Board will review and discuss various leases between the Township and the Palmer Township Athletic Association.

Board action is requested.

##### **DISCUSSION**

Young said, the lease for 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Northampton Street needs to be removed. These leases are more than just for the Athletic Association (AA). It's also for adult leagues and ENCO. They address the use of all facilities. Brett said, these are more of a template lease.

Solicitor Oetinger said, they are already written for each organization. The ENCO and softball league rent is attached to it as well. They are ready to go to the agencies for their signatures. Young thanked Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation, for his input. Young said, basically all AA leases are \$1, but they address things like if we have Palmer Weekend, we can take the use back for that weekend. They can't use it when the township has a priority. It's long overdue and our Solicitor was surprised we didn't already have them in place. Brett said, with insurance responsibilities, it cleans up liability for both sides.

Bellis said, back when I was involved many years ago in the AA they were 50 and 100 year leases. These are one year leases and everyone will know what is going on. Back then, the Lions organization had a 50 year lease.

Oetinger said, these are long overdue and we would like to memorialize the relationship for uses.

John Marks, 207 Hunter Street, asked if you can include a caveat that they have to give you a \$500 bond to clean up the mess they leave behind. Marks said Riverview Park in particular that has an older group using the park. They throw beer cans and they leave them behind. Brett read the blanket clause about the conditions of the premises. If they receive three notices we can terminate the lease. Marks said, terminating the

lease won't get you the money it costs to clean it up. Marks said, if you rent an apartment and have a dog or cat you have to put money up front.

McKinney said, it is a running conversation with that group. They are only supposed to have beverages under the pavilion. I think the three warnings are beneficial across the board. Bellis said, when you see it, let them know about it. Marks said that he lets Bob Williams know.

Brett said the leases are year-to-year so we can update them if necessary as we see them work through.

Supervisor Young made a motion to approve sending the leases to the appropriate agencies, except for the 25<sup>th</sup> and Northampton Street lease.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Supervisor Jeffrey Young, Seconded by Supervisor Michael Brett. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

B. Resolution Affirming Participation in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Program

INFORMATION

Township staff is requesting authorization from the Board to participate in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Municipal Certification Program. It is a free program which recognizes communities that exhibit excellence in sustainable operations, including striving for economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental conservation. Sustainable Pennsylvania improves the Township's chances of receiving grant funding and provides staff with free resources to improve operations and sustainability efforts.

Board action is requested.

DISCUSSION

Strasko said, a bonus to participating in this program is we would become eligible for grant funding. A lot of state grants we apply for ask if we are a member. If we become a member we will have better leverage to receive grant funds.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Charles Bellis III, Seconded by Supervisor Jeffrey Young. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

C. Authorization to Release Request for Qualifications for Active Transportation Plan Services

INFORMATION

Township staff is requesting authorization to release a Request for Qualifications for services to support the grant funded Active Transportation Plan. The selected consultant will be required to sign a not to exceed contract of \$20,000.

The PA Department of Labor and Industry established the 2024 bidding threshold for a contract or purchase of \$20,000 and requires only three written/telephonic quotes.

The staff has identified the following five firms to approach:

1. Carroll Engineering
2. Gilmore & Associates
3. Herbert, Rowland & Grubic (HRG)
4. NV5
5. McMahon Associates

Board action will not be required until a consultant is recommended and contract presented.

#### DISCUSSION

Baird said, we won a grant for our Active Transportation Plan. It will help us to get more active and help with getting better trails, street crossings, etc. We are looking for support of an engineer to do a report. The first phase is a planning analysis and online survey for residents to respond. When we see problem areas our engineer will help us crunch the numbers and help with the design. We selected five firms to approach that we know have done this work in the past and we will include a not to exceed \$20,000 clause. The Board agreed to proceed with the request for qualifications.

#### D. Traffic Safety Committee Recommendation

##### INFORMATION

The Traffic Safety Committee is recommending for the Board's consideration a handicap parking sign be installed in front of the residence at 228 South Watson Street.

Board action is requested.

##### DISCUSSION

Godbout said, Chief Smith and I are on the Traffic Safety Committee and we had one request for a handicap parking sign. First thing, we ask our Police Department if the location is safe. Chief Smith said it is. The resident provided the legitimate credentials and we are recommending the handicapped parking spot in front of their residence.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Supervisor Jeffrey Young, Seconded by Supervisor Michael Brett. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

E. Shade Tree Commission Annual Report

INFORMATION

The Palmer Township Shade Tree Commission members have compiled an annual report summarizing the Commission's activities over the course of 2023, per the ordinance requirements in Chapter 32. Members are in attendance to present the annual report and answer questions about the STC's activities.

DISCUSSION

Patrick Romano, Shade Tree Commission member, said they have been busy this year and have worked hard on the draft Shade Tree Commission ordinance. He reviewed some of the changes the Board is recommending to include an updated recommended tree listing. We have identified and removed 50 stumps that were laying around the township. We want Palmer green. It will be a suburban forest if we have anything to say about it. We held our first Arbor Day event last year and we are planning a better one this year. Shannon is working on getting grant funding for us. We work closely with Public Works and the Code Department. The Planning Department is sending us plans to review and comment on landscaping. We worked on proper bamboo disposal and we are grateful to Scott on this. We worked with Dan Lichtenwalner on the sidewalk repair recommendations. We are doing what we can and we want to make Palmer green.

Tina Walton asked if they can get any guarantee from the Power Companies about how they cut trees. Romano said, unfortunately there is nothing we can do about it. That is one reason we went to find the correct species of trees to plant and grow under power lines. We don't want them to get large so the utility companies cut them.

John Marks asked for the date of the Arbor Day event. Shannon Wisniewski said it is April 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the Library. All are invited.

Young said, I get confused between some things you are doing and what the Public Works Department is doing. I see trees that have been missing in some of our parks for a few years. Romano said, we will get the trees and Scott's team will put them in. Young said, I know we budgeted for shade trees. Scott Kistler said, there is money in the budget and we are working in conjunction with STC to get them planted. We work together through Paige Strasko and the Commission. Trees in the park right-of-ways are all funded by Public Works and working with this group.

Brett said, the nucleus of having Paige is incredible for both sides and for better communications. Bellis said, thank you for what you do.

Colin Burke said, sometimes I think the Shade Tree Commission and the ESC seem to almost be doing the same thing. Could you combine the two groups? Brett said, sometimes there is an overlap and there are some opportunities for synergy. The ESC drives our climate action plan and works with our recycling programs. There is definitely enough work to have two independent committees.



F. Authorization to Advertise Shade Tree Commission and Street Tree Ordinance INFORMATION

The Palmer Township Shade Tree Commission has drafted a new ordinance entitled "Trees" describing resident responsibility for street tree maintenance, removal, and replanting. This ordinance includes the addition of tree removal permits only for trees within the public right-of-way to ensure that trees are removed due to death or disease and replaced to maintain urban tree canopy. Paige Strasko, the Commission's staff liaison, will also be giving a presentation describing the benefits of street trees for the community.

Approval to advertise is requested.

DISCUSSION

Strasko gave a brief presentation on the benefits on having a robust tree canopy with more tree lined streets in the township. Brett said, there is data out there that claims tree lined streets actually reduce traffic speed.

Paul Strasko, Chair of the ESC, said we are requesting to be able to advertise our Street Tree Ordinance for all the reasons we previously discussed. It outlines what the homeowners have to do and also what the township has to do. All to be able to reduce the damages we've seen over the years. Whoever takes down a tree, will get a tree back.

Young said, many residents in the Old Orchard development have removed the street trees. Young asked if there is a timeline to replace them. Shannon Wisniewski said, we plan to break the township into sections and address them one at a time. We are looking for public spaces and making sure we have the right areas to identify. There will be a step process and we will be considering funding opportunities. Young said, he saw information about the Emerald Ash Borer and asked, if a resident has a tree in there back yard affected, what do they do? If it is in someone's back yard, you won't touch it, right? Paige Strasko said, the only time we could get involved is if the tree created a hazardous condition. Young questioned Page 2, 2A that states, "The Shade Tree Commission may administer regulations for shade and street trees in the township." Why does it say shade and street? Paige Strasko said, the thought is that the Shade Tree Commission is responsible for trees on public lands. Young said, I believe this is a great opportunity and I hope my street trees are acceptable. Where my trees are located it is near the right-of-way line and my property line. Kistler said, in that area there is a 10 foot right-of-way.

Kris Haydt said, I have a tree that I have a love/hate relationship with on my property. It's affected my sewer. We had the tree pruned and the only reason I haven't taken it out is because it's super expensive. Could you demand that we have to take the tree down? Paige Strasko said, only if it was completely dead. Haydt said, if my tree root system is affecting my sewer piping, I feel I should be able to make a decision to get rid of the tree. Wisniewski said, the STC talked extensively about this and we will be addressing each removal case by case. The intent is to keep trees in there spot. Haydt asked, am I a shade tree or street tree? Wisniewski said, yours would be street

tree. If there is a risk to public safety and you have documentation you tried to sustain the tree, the entire group would have to review it. Haydt said, I worry with high winds it could fall on my home. Wisniewski said, the maintenance of the tree is the responsibility of the homeowner. Haydt said, that puts the cost on the homeowners. Wisniewski said, I have trees on my property and it is my responsibility to take care of them.

Scott Kistler said, I'm putting on my sewer hat now. If tree roots are detrimental to her sewer structure and the township sewer structure and it is costing the homeowner thousands of dollars a year to repair their sewer structure, it has to be a serious consideration to the STC. Roots in her system could cause a sewer backup into her house that could cause thousands of dollars of damage. In a situation like that, we would recommend it being removed and planting an alternate replacement not near the sanitary sewer system.

Brett said, tonight the request is to advertise the ordinance so it can come back to the Board for approval. Is there a timeframe? Oettinger said, 30 days.

Haydt asked, who makes the decision if a tree is dead or diseased? Wisniewski said, if a tree is visibly dead we wouldn't have to hire someone. If there are concerns of its health and we need an expert we would hire an Arborist to determine the health of the tree.

Colin Burke asked, if an Arborist says it has to come down, it happens? Wisniewski said they would provide documentation to the STC. Young said, in certain areas dead trees are not detrimental and can help with wildlife. Burke said, planting a tree is great and it helps with oxygen and the roots help with drainage. When planting on public property do you consider what it will look like and think about the future? Paul Strasko said, yes.

Bill Hartin, Co-Chair of the ESC, said I am impressed and I appreciate how involved and deep your efforts are. At our recent meeting we discussed the need to establish some information and effective communications between our two bodies. For example, the township starting the MS4 program. The township and residents are not being forced into it, but are seeing their roles as partners within the township. I'm getting the feeling the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission are considering and placing a higher value on trees and woodlands and our natural resources in the township. Even though they are dwindling, it is good to here you are considering this moving forward. I believe we, as caring and responsible constituents for the township, can do an awful lot and compare notes. Hartin said, the ESC's Earth Day event will take place on April 20, 2024 at Fairview Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope you come and see what we have planned.

John Marks said, I liked hearing tree for a tree. The development of townhouses on Van Buren Road will be removing trees. Is there anything in our ordinance that says if so many are taken out, they should be replanted. Baird said, we have some tree protection standards and we have budgeted to rewrite our SALDO where we can make changes. Baird said, if Phase 3 is approved, it will almost entirely remove the woodland there. The Board of Supervisors have not yet approved Phase 3. Our plan for the future is to address all land development for greater tree protection.

Mr. Graack, 1380 Van Buren Road, said you hit a couple nerves for me tonight. I have property in other municipalities and here. You will not see a tree near my buildings. At my other properties I've had trees removed for problems and because I don't want them along the street. It's my contention the property has to maintain it. If it is doing damage to your property you should mitigate that. The trees were there long before I owned the property and they are gone now. The lady that has the problem with her sewer, you can trim them but you can't do anything about the roots unless you dig them out. There has to be more latitude for the property owner to manage the trees around their property to eliminate damage from storms. Paul Strasko said, this is only trees in the right-of-way, not on private property. Graack said, roots go where they go. Paul Strasko said, there are also things to consider when planting. Some trees roots grow down. Graack said, the existing trees don't have that.

Brett said, we can look over this over the next 30 days to see if we can add more clarity to identify some of the items discussed. No action is needed tonight. Oetinger asked, should we come back with a revised ordinance and then request to advertise? Brett recommend the changes be made and it come back at the March 18th meeting and if no further changes are needed, a motion can be made to advertise.

G. Tree Recognition Program - Big Trees of Palmer  
INFORMATION

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) would like to introduce Big Trees of Pennsylvania and suggest how Palmer Township can easily participate in this initiative. The STC is seeking feedback on the proposed program, as well as Board approval to pilot the initiative at Palmer Days. If successful, the STC would seek to implement the program permanently.

Shannon Wisniewski from the STC will be presenting to the Board.

DISCUSSION

Shannon Wisniewski, STC Member, said the committee is running an art logo contest and we are looking for designs from anyone in the township. Submissions are due by April 1, 2024.

Wisniewski made a presented to the Board regarding a Tree Recognition Program. She explained there is a PA Champion Tree Program devoted to conservation. Residents could measure their tree, document them and be able to compare them to other big trees in the state and nationally. It is a volunteer run organization that is overseen by certified Arborists. There are 2,000 trees on the register, but none are in Palmer Township. She reviewed the registry of trees in Northampton County and showed a tree registered in Nazareth. Wisniewski said, residents can do this themselves. We believe it would be neat to participate and as township volunteers we would be trained and would agree to measure trees. We are thinking of piloting this program at Palmer Community Days as a soft launch. If a tree in Palmer would get accepted, we'd provide a certificate and put photos in the newsletter. We are asking for your feedback.

The Board liked the presentation and the idea to launch at Community Weekend.

Colin Burke asked if there is a Pennsylvania state tree. Wisniewski said, the Hemlock. Burke said I know the STC is adding things to the newsletter. You may want to include, did you know Pennsylvania has a state tree.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tina Walton, 209 Brentwood Avenue, said she sent a care package to the township Recreation Board detailing rampant issues within the Athletic Association (AA). Things like, misappropriation of funds, excessive spending on alcohol, perjury on tax documents, and favoritism. I was told because it was submitted anonymously the Recreation Board wouldn't address it and that there wasn't much the township could do. I initially submitted anonymously because I was afraid of retaliation. I've since stepped forward. I don't know if that changes now that I came forward. The AA bylaws say the AA is under the township and the Recreation Board. If that changed, the AA needs to update their website. It is still operating under the township name. I'm looking for any other feedback.

Supervisor Young said, about five years ago the structure changed. It was our Township Manager at the time, Dan McKinney and former Supervisors that brought the idea to break it apart. At that time, the township stopped subsidizing the AA for equipment, official fees, etc. Since that change the township now puts the money they used to give to the AA into a capital youth recreation fund. Everything has been turned over to the AA. They are their own entity. As far as their bylaws, it has nothing to do with us. If they haven't updated their website, they need to. I don't have activity in it like I used to in the past. What I saw regarding your packet, it is an AA issue for them to deal with.

Solicitor Oetinger said, that advice came from me. The township doesn't have the discretion to be able to take any action on that. They are a separate entity. It is not a township Board that I can suggest the Board of Supervisors can exercise oversight. It is no different than any other non-profit organization in the township.

Brett said, we are actively working with the Recreation Board on formalizing the relationship between the AA and the Recreation Board. We do have control on the activities taking place on our fields. Walton said, the township website has reference to the AA being under the township on the Recreation Board page. Young said, at the time I was not in favor of changing the relationship, but I was out numbered.

## **6. REPORTS**

### Supervisors

Bellis said he'd like to reach out to our community and service groups, Boys and Girl Scout Troops to see if they are interested in volunteering at our Easter Egg Hunt on March 29th. McKinney said, donuts will be provided.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. with one personnel item for executive session.

Motion: Adjourn, Moved by Charles Bellis III, Seconded by Supervisor Jeffrey Young. Passed. 3-0.

Supervisors voting Ayes: Bellis III, Brett, Young

Supervisors Absent: Armato, Mitchell

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda DeGerolamo  
Assistant Township Manager